

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial**  
**Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Debbie Herbert at**  
**334/242-8609**

For Additional Information, contact Debbie Herbert (334) 242-8609

## **Alabama Receives \$15 Million for Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 21, 2005.....New legislation signed today by President Bush will provide \$15 million to Alabama's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund which is used to pay unemployment compensation benefits. The legislation divides \$500 million in federal unemployment funds to three disaster states to help replenish trust fund accounts. The funds are divided among states according to their share of expected increased unemployment benefit payments attributable to Hurricane Katrina.

“We are both delighted and relieved to get the money,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. “We have taken over 7,300 disaster-related unemployment claims as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The money will shore up our reserves and may prevent employer unemployment insurance tax increases in the future.”

The money is allocated as follows: Alabama, \$15 million; Mississippi, \$85 million; and Louisiana \$400 million.

In Alabama, the unemployment compensation maximum weekly benefit amount is \$220 per week. Claimants may be able to receive benefits up to 26 weeks.

In addition to over 7,300 disaster-related unemployment claims, over 2,000 persons in Alabama have filed for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). DUA benefits are separately funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The DUA benefits are available for those not qualified for regular unemployment benefits, such as the self-employed.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.